

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 SP-02

USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: RUMORED BRAZILIAN PURCHASE OF IVORIAN AND
MALAGASY COFFEES

REF: (A) STATE 184181 NOTAL; (B) BRASILIA 2878 NOTAL;
(C) SAN SALVADOR 3462 NOTAL; (D) BRASILIA 6647 NOTAL;
(E) RIO DE JANEIRO 2825 NOTAL; (F) STATE 196778 NOTAL;
(G) STATE 188565 NOTAL

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1. DEPARTMENT IS AGAIN CONCERNED OVER PRESS REPORTS OF FURTHER ATTEMPTS BY THE BRAZILIAN COFFEE INSTITUTE (IBC) TO PURCHASE COFFEE IN THE IVORY COAST AND MADAGASCAR. REPORTS FROM NEW YORK AND LONDON INDICATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY. THE RUMOR HAS ALREADY CAUSED A RISE IN PRICES IN THE COFFEE MARKET.
2. AS IN THE CASE OF EL SALVADOR, SELLERS TO BRAZIL WOULD FOREGO THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THEIR EXPORTS TO IMPORTING MEMBER MARKETS AND THUS HAVE SMALLER QUOTAS IN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT (ICA) WHEN QUOTAS ARE EVENTUALLY INTRODUCED. SINCE BRAZIL IS NOT AN IMPORTING MEMBER, SHIPMENTS TO IT MAY NOT BE COUNTED IN CALCULATING QUOTAS.
3. WE HAVE DIFFICULTY IN FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE MAGNITUDE OF THE REPORTED PURCHASE (334,000 BAGS FROM THE IVORY COAST AND 168,000 BAGS FROM MADAGASCAR), ESPECIALLY SINCE BRAZIL HAS ALREADY PURCHASED 560,000 BAGS FROM EL SALVADOR.
4. WE ARE CONCERNED OVER THE EFFECTS SUCH TRANSACTIONS COULD HAVE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS SOON TO GO BEFORE THE FULL U.S. SENATE FOR ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION.
5. ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THESE REPORTS AND REPORT SOONEST TO THE DEPARTMENT. ROBINSON

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